



The Municipal Borough and
Rural District of Wokingham
Joint Public Health Committee

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1967

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THE MUNICIPAL BOROUGH AND RURAL DISTRICT OF WOKINGHAM JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

List of Members:

Wokingham Municipal Borough	...	Ald. F. Moles (Chairman) Cr. E. E. Bland
Wokingham Rural District	... ..	Mrs. N. O. Adlam Mr. B. E. Evans Mrs. M. E. Funnell Mrs. E. M. Morrison Mrs. N. C. L. Robinson, J.P.
Berkshire County Council	... ..	Cr. Dr. R. Child Mr. F. J. Pratt
Clerk of the Committee	... ..	Mr. C. W. H. Garrett (Honorary)
Treasurer of the Committee	... ..	Mr. E. C. Clarkson (Honorary)

WOKINGHAM MUNICIPAL BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

List of Members:

Ald. F. Moles (Chairman)	
The Mayor, Cr. E. E. Bland (Vice-Chairman)	
Ald. R. H. Brimblecombe	Cr. R. B. Naish
Ald. N. C. Lawrence	Cr. W. G. Rogers
Ald. W. J. Willey	Cr. W. C. A. Smith
Cr. H. A. Chapman, O.B.E.	Cr. J. W. Tattersall
Cr. Dr. R. Child	Cr. E. J. West

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF WOKINGHAM PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

List of Members:

Mrs. N. O. Adlam (Chairman)	
Mrs. N. C. L. Robinson, J.P. (Vice-Chairman)	
Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council (ex-officio)	
Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (ex-officio)	
Lt.-Col. C. D. Burnell, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., D.L.	
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Mr. P. R. Chamberlin	Major T. W. Merrifield
Mrs. P. M. Cole	Mrs. E. M. Morrison
Mrs. D. W. Dowding	The Dowager Lady Remnant
Mr. B. E. Evans	The Hon. Mrs. E. A. Samuel
Mr. H. M. Flaherty	Mr. E. S. Scott, J.P.
Mrs. M. E. Funnell	Mr. D. G. Smalley
Mr. W. H. Gilkes	Mr. J. N. W. Sparrow

THE MUNICIPAL BOROUGH AND RURAL DISTRICT OF WOKINGHAM

Staff:

Medical Officer of Health:

I. W. MACKICHAN, O.B.E., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

Secretary to Medical Officer of Health: Mrs. J. Wadmore.

WOKINGHAM MUNICIPAL BOROUGH

Chief Public Health Inspector :	J. B. Bowden, M.A.P.H.I.	Certificate of the Royal S.I. and Joint Board. Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
Deputy to Chief Public Health Inspector :	P E. Parbery, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., A.R.S.H.	Certificate of the Royal S.I. and Joint Board. Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods. R.S.H. Diploma for Smoke Inspection.
Typist/Clerical Assistant :	Miss J. Smith	
Technical Assistant/ Rodent Officer :	H. G. Scurlock	

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF WOKINGHAM

Chief Public Health Inspector :	D. Evans	Certificate of the Royal Sani- tary Institute as Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of the Royal Sani- tary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
Senior Additional Public Health Inspector :	M. Cottrell	Certificate of the Royal Sani- tary Institute as Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of the Royal Sani- tary Institute at Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
Additional Public Health Inspectors :	E. Huntington	Certificate of the Royal Sani- tary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
	D. T. Lewis	Certificate of the Royal Sani- tary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
	P. H. Frost	Certificate of the Public Health Inspectors Examina- tion Board. Diploma for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.
Chief Clerk :	Mrs. M. Emmett	
Clerical Assistants :	Mrs. L. Nash One vacancy	
Rodent Control Officer :	J. Martin	
Rodent Operators :	A. Tockock A. J. B. Wicks	

**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE WOKINGHAM MUNICIPAL BOROUGH
AND THE RURAL DISTRICT OF
WOKINGHAM JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1967. I am glad to say that the health statistics continue to show a further improvement and the area can still be regarded as one of the healthiest in the country.

VITAL STATISTICS

Both the Borough and Rural District continue to attract new residents and there was an increase in population of 3,560 persons during the year. Of these, the natural increase came to 1,109, while the remaining 2,451 were newcomers taking up residence in the area. The total population of the combined district is now 88,680, Wokingham Borough having a population of 17,980 and the Rural District 70,700. The latter, with the exception of Easthampstead, has now almost double the population of any other Rural District in Berkshire, and the increases in numbers, both in the Borough and Rural District, were more than in any other part of the county.

The birth rate shows some decline from the previous year's figure of 21.4 per thousand births, being 20.8. This follows the general trend throughout the country, but still remains well above the figure of 17.2 for England and Wales. The total number of live births came to 1,845. Of these, 391 were to residents of the Borough and 1,454 to those living in the Rural District. The area comparability factor in regard to births for the Rural District is 0.93, giving an adjusted birth rate of 19.1 per thousand. No adjustment is necessary for the Borough rate, the area comparability factor being 1.00. This factor takes into account the number of women of child bearing age in the population, and indicates that this section of the population is relatively more numerous in Wokingham Rural District than elsewhere.

The infant mortality rate for 1967 was 14.6, which is again below the figure for England and Wales of 18.3 and an improvement on the 1966 figure of 18.1. In the Borough the rate was only 5 per thousand births and only two deaths were recorded during the year. The Rural District figure was 17, with 25 deaths. The percentage of illegitimate births was much the same as last year, being 3.9 of the total. The perinatal mortality rate, i.e., still births and deaths under one week per thousand live and still births, came

to 22 in the Rural District and only 15 in the Borough, both figures being well below the national average of 25.4. Similarly, the still birth rate of 10 per thousand total births was again much better than the national figure of 14.8. From this, it can be concluded that the arrangements for the care of young babies and of the mothers before, during and after delivery, must be among the best in the country.

The number of deaths in 1967 came to 736, which is 8 less than the figure for the previous year. The crude death rate of 8.3 continues to be well below the average for other parts of the country, which is 11.2. The area comparability factors for the Borough and Rural District are 0.85 and 1.27 respectively, and the adjusted death rates came to 9.0 for the Borough and 9.7 for the Rural District. The chief causes of death were again cancer, coronary heart disease and vascular diseases of the nervous system. There was a fall in the number of deaths from cancer from 160 to 122. Lung cancer accounted for 30 deaths, which is 8 less than in 1966. Of these, 23 were in the Rural District and 7 in the Borough. This latter figure is a great improvement on the previous year when 16 deaths were notified from this cause.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

With 1967 being a peak year for measles, the number of notifications rose to 1,181, compared with 650 in the previous year. It will be interesting to see the effect on the number of cases of the measles vaccination campaign about to begin in 1968. The number of cases of whooping cough also increased to 83, compared with only 18 previously. The reason for this is still obscure, but the newer batches of vaccine have a more comprehensive cover of the virus strains of *h.pertussis*. There were 82 cases of dysentery reported. Many of these occurred among young children attending infant schools, but fortunately, prompt attention to hygiene in the schools prevented more general spread. Cases of food poisoning, too, showed a slight increase, 19 notifications being received compared with only 8 in 1966. This follows the general trend throughout the country and is possibly due to better recognition of the cause of many cases of gastro-enteritis. Several cases of food poisoning which occurred outside the district were traced to a batch of trifles prepared locally. With the co-operation of the manufacturers, various improvements both in hygiene and the methods of preparation and transport were quickly put in hand and it is unlikely that a similar occurrence will happen again. To follow this up, the assistance of the Central Council for Health Education was requested and a lecturer came to the factory and gave an interesting talk, together with a film, on the hygiene of food preparation and handling. One case of paratyphoid fever was reported. On investigation it was found that the

infection was probably acquired while the person was on holiday in Cornwall. The Cornish Authorities were notified and carried out a full scale investigation to try and find the source.

Notifications of tuberculosis were much the same as in previous years, but many of these were due to cases being transferred to this area from other districts and comparatively few infections could be said to have been acquired locally.

WATER SUPPLIES

Water supplies in general are satisfactory both in quality and quantity. The number of standpipes serving properties is being reduced each year and there are now very few. Analyses from the two local suppliers, namely the Thames Valley Water Board and the Mid-Wessex Water Company were received and showed that the water was not plumbo-solvent in either case. The fluoride content of the water received from the Mid-Wessex Water Company remained at the same level as in previous years. Only two areas near the River Thames are without a piped supply and dependent on wells. Samples from these have proved satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Arrangements for sewage disposal throughout most of the district are reasonably adequate, although some areas are still without main drainage and dependent upon cesspools. The most important area requiring sewerage is the village of St. Nicholas Hurst, but any scheme will have to be combined with the drainage of surface water. In addition, parts of Wargrave, Wokingham Without and Finchampstead should receive priority in any future plans for the extension of main drainage.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY

The demand for appointments at the Cervical Cytology Clinic continues to be steady throughout the year, and the number of sessions was increased to three per month. To date there has been no need for extensive propaganda, as the number of women asking for appointments is sufficient to keep the places filled for about one month in advance.

FAMILY PLANNING

During the year the Family Planning Association opened a clinic at Wokingham Hospital. Four hundred and three patients were seen, which taxed the resources of the evening session to the utmost. Accordingly, plans were made for a further evening session to be begun early in 1968. With the help of contributions from both local authorities, the charges are waived for any mothers who find difficulty in paying.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

A Mass Radiography Campaign was begun in the Rural District in December. The number of persons attending came to 7,544, compared with 5,995 on the occasion of the previous survey in 1962. This increase was all the more remarkable because of the appalling weather conditions which prevailed at the time of the survey. In addition to the above, a total of 1,661 persons were also examined in 1966 during a survey of factories in the area.

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

The Home Safety Committee of the Rural District met several times during the year. Unfortunately they lost the services of their secretary early on, and it has not been possible to find a replacement. Activities were mainly confined to the provision of posters and other propaganda material, which was distributed regularly to all parishes in the district. At the end of the year preparations were made for a Schools Quiz on Home Accidents and it was also decided to run a Water Safety Campaign in the local schools during 1968.

CARE OF THE AGED

All registered Nursing Homes and Old Persons' Homes were inspected regularly during the year. Hurst Grange changed hands and a much needed programme of re-decoration and renovation was begun. There is still difficulty in some cases in securing hospital accommodation, due to the shortage of beds at the disposal of the geriatric service. It is hoped that the new building programme for Wokingham Hospital next year will help to improve the position considerably.

Efforts were made during the year to extend the "Meals on Wheels" service to Wokingham Borough and to Wargrave, where there is some demand. Unfortunately, up to date, no suitable place for preparing the food has been found in either case.

Once more, I wish to express my appreciation of the support given by the Chairmen and Members of both Public Health Committees to myself and my colleagues. I would also like to thank the Chief Public Health Inspectors of the Borough and Rural District and all members of the staff, including my secretary, for their co-operation and assistance.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

I. W. MacKICHAN
Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Shute End,
Wokingham,
Berkshire.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	3,403
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book at 31st March, 1968	5,701
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1968	£995,763
Product of a Penny Rate	£4,023
Population (estimated) mid-year	17,980

LIVE BIRTHS :

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	200	173	373
Illegitimate	9	9	18
Total	209	182	391
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) :			
Actual			21.7
Corrected			21.7
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births			4.6

STILL BIRTHS :

	M	F	Total
Number of Still Births	3	1	4
Total Live and Still Births			395
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) ...			10.0

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year):

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	2	—	2
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 live births) :			
Legitimate			5.1
Illegitimate			—
Combined			5.0
Neo-natal Death Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)			5.0
Early Neo-natal Death Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)			5.0
Perinatal Death Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births) ...			15.0

MATERNAL DEATHS :

Number of Maternal Deaths	—
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) ...	—

DEATHS (All causes):

	M	F	Total
Number of Deaths	82	108	190
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) :			
Actual			10.6
Corrected			9.0

Wokingham Municipal Borough

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	1967	1966	1965
Scarlet Fever	3	15	8
Whooping cough	3	3	—
Measles	97	284	468
Acute poliomyelitis:			
(a) Paralytic	—	—	—
(b) Non-paralytic	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis:			
(a) Infective	—	—	—
(b) Post-infectious	—	—	—
Dysentery	7	3	56
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	2	2	2
Acute pneumonia	1	1	—
Paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Food poisoning	1	—	3
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	Respiratory		No-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—
2—4 years	—	—	—	—
5—9 „	—	—	—	—
10—14 „	—	—	—	—
15—19 „	—	—	—	1
20—24 „	—	—	—	—
25—34 „	—	—	—	—
35—44 „	—	—	—	—
45—54 „	1	—	—	—
55—64 „	1	—	—	—
65—74 „	—	—	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—
Total (All Ages)	2	—	—	1

Wokingham Municipal Borough

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus during the year is as follows:—

DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS :

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	39
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	385

DIPHTHERIA/WHOOPING COUGH/TETANUS :

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	337
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	343

The number of children and adults who were vaccinated against Smallpox and immunised against Poliomyelitis is as follows:—

SMALLPOX :

Primary Vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	285
Re-vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	136

POLIOMYELITIS :

Primary Immunisations	...	...	...	...	...	547
Re-inforcing Immunisations	...	...	...	...	...	314

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WOKINGHAM BOROUGH, 1967

Wokingham Municipal Borough

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Causes of Death	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years								
				1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	4	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	37
Coronary disease, angina ...	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	11
Hypertension with heart disease ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other heart disease ...	24	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	4	16
Other circulatory disease ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Pneumonia ...	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	12
Bronchitis ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Congenital malformations ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	10
Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
All other accidents ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Total All Causes ...	190	2	—	—	3	—	9	24	42	109		

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The modernisation of the Ashridge Water Reclamation Plant has proceeded throughout the year, and Phase I and part of Phase II are now in operation and producing a most satisfactory effluent. The Heat Treatment Plant for sludge is proving to be of great interest amongst engineers nationally and internationally.

A new sewer has been laid from Toutley Pumping Station along the Emm Brook to Eastheath Avenue, and this will be brought into operation when the re-building of Toutley Pumping Station is complete.

A new main gravity sewer has been laid from the Works to a point in Rances Lane, and this has been brought into use.

Plans have been prepared for providing a foul sewer to serve part of Sandy Lane. A tender has been accepted and Ministry approval is awaited.

HIGHWAYS

A number of minor road improvements have taken place to aid movements of traffic and work is progressing in connection with the Traffic Managements Scheme, which it is hoped to bring into operation during the Autumn of 1968.

Private Street works carried out during the year include the making-up of Lowther Road, and preparation of plans and estimates for Southlands Road.

STREET LIGHTING

The Borough now has in excess of 1,600 sodium lamps. During the current year a new lighting scheme has been introduced for Rectory Road, Wiltshire Road and Finchampstead Road, utilising steel columns with a mounting height of 30 feet. The control of these lamps is by means of a photo-electric cell.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of house refuse is working satisfactorily; a weekly collection is made from all domestic property, with special collections from shops and industrial buildings. Refuse is being disposed of by controlled tipping at the disposal works at Billingbear. The Council has also considered the possible use of pulverisation plants to conserve space at the disposal works. A further dustless loading vehicle is being purchased during 1968, together with a new cesspool/gully emptying vehicle.

SWIMMING POOL

A good attendance record was made at the Pool during the season. The quality of the water was of a high standard, and general improvements have been made to the car parking facilities.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

TOWN PLANNING

Development within the Borough continued apace throughout the year and a considerable increase in population took place. Most of the "designated" land is now in course of development. Considerable progress has been made in the re-building of the Town Centre, and this has had quite an effect on the general street scene.

HOUSING

The Council have been investigating the possibility of re-developing certain sites within the Borough, utilising rationalised traditional building methods, and it is hoped to proceed with these schemes, which include the provision of old persons' accommodation during the forthcoming year.

In conclusion, 1967 has again been a very busy and expansive year, and Wokingham continues to be well favoured in the general expansion of the South East.

H. G. BATHURST.

REPORT OF THE HOUSING MANAGER

Two new housing contracts were completed during the year. The first in Barkham Road consisted of 53 dwellings and 37 lock-up garages. The Council agreed to the installation of a new type of gas fire in some of these dwellings. This appliance provides room and water heating and after overcoming some minor difficulties in the circulatory pumps, the system is working well and giving satisfaction to the tenants. The second contract was for 11 dwellings and 11 lock up garages in Emmbrook Road. These were erected on a site where four pre-war Council houses previously stood and the Council is pleased with one good use made of this land. These contracts brought the total number of properties under management to 996 and lock-up garages to 357.

Following reports on the cost of the proposed modernisation and improvement of 16 pre-war dwellings, erected on four sites in Emmbrook Road, Toutley Road, Evendons Lane and Barkham Road, the Council decided to abandon this scheme as it appeared to be uneconomical. The occupants of twelve of these houses were transferred, the dwellings demolished and sites cleared. The Council now awaits approval from the Ministry to redevelop the sites, providing nearly double the number of dwellings. This will then leave only two pre-war dwellings that have yet to be brought up to present day standards.

The Department carried out 153 lettings during the year, as follows:—

Wokingham Municipal Borough

Applicants rehoused off waiting list	...	...	...	61
Internal transfers to make best use of accommodation				65
Exchanges (one out of the Borough)	...	...	...	3
Slum Clearance	...	...	...	9
Staff tenancies	...	...	...	9
Allocation to industry	...	...	...	6

The housing waiting list showed that there were 207 registered applications and 25% of these were eligible for old persons accommodation. The Council hopes to assist in this respect by developing a centrally situated site which should meet the needs of at least half of this number. A "deferred waiting list" for engaged couples was started and 21 applications were accepted.

A total of 1,811 orders were issued during the year for repairs to Council dwellings.

P. HEDGES.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The work of the Town Centre redevelopment has continued during the year, despite the problems associated with the economy cuts and this work has not in any way decreased that of the Department. In fact, where old single units have been in existence, there are now multiple shops of the self-service and super-market variety and these have increased the obligations under legislation such as the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 and Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

A great deal of reconstruction work remains to be completed and where new development takes place it is to be expected, and hoped, that remaining unsatisfactory premises will disappear altogether.

If less future time is spent on trying to keep old premises up to an acceptable standard an increased effort can be made in improving food hygiene education and eradicating bad food handling practices.

Where large food industries and shops are concerned, advice is sought by them in their aim of improving standards and this has in turn resulted in better relations with the food industry, from both manufacturer and retailer and also the members of the public themselves.

A great deal of work has been done in relation to cream and cooked meats, both from the aspect of sampling, improved standards of manufacture and handling. It is hoped that this improvement will continue under the vigilance of the Department.

With regard to the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963, I have made comments in the narrative report sent to the Ministry of Labour which summarizes the work of the Department, and this is found under a further section of the report.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

WATER SUPPLY

The mains water supply of the area is provided by the Mid-Wessex Water Company and has remained satisfactory during the year.

The number of samples taken for bacteriological examination is as follows:—

Water samples taken from mains supply	14
Water samples taken from Martins Swimming Pool ...	16
Water samples taken from Martins Swimming Pool which were unsatisfactory	4

The latter results were due to excessive conditions of weather and use of pool and were quickly remedied by the Pool Manager with subsequent satisfactory samples.

There were no problems associated with well water supplies.

RAINFALL

Month	Depth in Inches	Greatest Fall in 24 hours Depth in Inches	Date	No. of days with .01 ins. or more	No. of days with .04 ins. or more
January ...	2.17	.38	25th	13	11
February ...	2.34	.67	27th	11	10
March ...	1.91	.50	8th	13	9
April ...	1.40	.37	24th	11	9
May ...	4.99	.85	14th	23	19
June ...	1.53	.83	25th	5	3
July ...	1.07	.43	22nd	7	4
August ...	2.67	.56	13th	11	10
September ...	1.98	.71	25th	14	11
October ...	4.77	1.10	16th	21	19
November ...	1.92	.88	1st	8	7
December ...	2.15	.82	18th	13	11
Totals ...	28.90			137	112

Average of 67 years:
25.47 inches.
166.77 days with .01 inches or more.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

Number of samples of trade effluent taken	6
Number of visits made in connection with trade effluent	20
Number of samples of sewage effluent taken	2
Number of visits made following problems and complaints associated with main sewers	142

Wokingham Municipal Borough

The types of trade effluent being discharged have not altered and are in the main associated with light industries:—

- e.g. (a) Electronic and printed circuit design and development.
- (b) Plating work in connection with catering and electrical equipment.
- (c) Manufacturing of food processing machines.
- (d) Construction of bulk containers for dairy, food and farm industries.

All the above have entered into trade effluent agreements with this Authority and have satisfactory methods of treatment, either in being, or under construction, so as to ensure neutral effluent discharging into the sewers at all times.

The reconstruction of the Council's treatment and disposal works has continued throughout the year and is now in its final stages; this is alleviating some of the problems encountered over the previous years.

The following are two typical trade effluent samples:—

					Parts per million	Parts per million
Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	...	...	...	2.24	0.08
Albuminoid nitrogen	...	...	...	...	absent	0.4
Nitrogen from nitrites	...	...	...	...	0.004	0.006
Nitrogen from nitrates	...	...	...	...	5.8	6.1
Permanganate value (3 mins.)	...	...	...	...	390	1.2
Permanganate value (4 hours)	...	...	...	...	1,200	3.6
Biochemical oxygen demand (5 days at 20°C)	...	...	...	...	220	29
Total solids	...	...	...	...	2,957	337
Solids in suspension	...	...	...	...	8	3
Total volatile on ignition	...	...	...	...	3	3
Combined chlorine	...	...	...	...	200.0	39
Reaction (pH value)	...	...	...	...	6.5	7.6
Appearance	...	...	...	...	colourless and cloudy	slightly cloudy with light brown sediment
Odour	...	...	...	...	musty	musty
Zinc	...	...	...	...	5.0	absent
Copper	...	...	...	...	0.2	0.05
Cyanide	...	...	...	...	absent	absent
Chromium	...	...	...	...	absent	absent
Nickel	...	...	...	...	absent	absent
Cadmium	...	...	...	...	absent	absent
Lead	...	...	...	...	—	absent

Wokingham Municipal Borough

HOUSING

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications received for improvement grants	...	...	47
Applications received for conversion grants	...	...	—
Applications received for standard grants	...	...	4
Applications approved, improvement or conversion	...	...	40
Applications approved, standard	...	...	4
Applications refused	...	...	3
Total number of visits made in respect of applications, completions or enquiries regarding grants approved during the year	...	...	120
Total number of housing units included in applications approved	...	...	44
Total sum involved in grants approved during the year	...	...	£9,529 – 19 – 3d.

IMPROVEMENT AREAS

Number of houses improved voluntarily in	5pt	3pt
(a) Improvement area (Housing Act 1964)	15	—
(b) Informal improvement area	28	—

The Borough Council, during the year, continued with their policy of promoting the improvement of houses. Generally, applications for grants were made in respect of houses built at the turn of the century and most of the work consisted of building additional single storeys to house bathroom, internal w.c., wash hand basin, etc.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION ORDERS

During the year a total of fourteen time and place notices were served in relation to the Housing Act 1957 and ten properties were subject to Closing Orders.

Eight families were re-housed subject to Closing Orders.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Again it is pleasing to report that there are no problems associated with this type of housing, primarily due to the fact that most houses in the Borough are of a type that do not lend themselves for multiple lettings.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There were, at the end of the year, eighteen site licences for individual caravans.

Those that were exempted at the sewage disposal works have now moved off with the new works in the final stages of the phase of operations.

No problem of itinerants manifested itself during the year, probably because of the dearth of land for parking.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

FOOD

FOREIGN MATTER AND MOULD

A total of 22 food complaints were brought to the Department's notice and these are itemised as follows:—

Commodity	Foreign Matter		Mould
	Number		Number
	Home produced food	Imported food	
Milk	2	—	—
Bread	4	—	2
Canned Meat	1	1	2
Meat Pies	—	—	1
Fish	—	1	—
Fruit	—	1	—
Jam	1	—	—
Vegetables	1	1	—
Sweets	1	—	—
Confectionery	1	—	1
Other Food	—	—	1
Totals	11	4	7

In all cases detailed investigations were made and none necessitated legal action. In many of these complaints improvements effected were due to detailed work done to find causes, and prevent further recurrences. This seemed preferable to the taking of legal action with the possible repetition of the same offence at a later date.

FOOD PREMISES

Little purpose seems to be served by identifying the type of premises due to the modern trend of shops trading in a multiplicity of goods, therefore the total number of all retail food premises within the Borough at the end of the year is:—

134

Of this figure 26 are licensed premises and 5 off licences.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

FOOD HYGIENE

	Number	
	Offences	Convictions
1. Part II—General requirements	20	—
2. Part III—Requirements relating to persons engaged in the handling of food	8	—
3. Part IV—Requirements relating to food premises	12	—
Totals ...	40	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLING

Sample	No. Taken	No. Unsatisfactory
Sausage (all types)	—	—
Meat pies	—	—
Sliced meats	21	8
Flour confectionery	6	6
Fresh cream	50	10
Synthetic cream	—	—
Milk	21	—
Tinned fish	2	—

UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
1. Meat at slaughterhouses	—	—	—
2. Meat at wholesale premises		8	20
3. Meat at retail shops		2	12
4. Cooked meat and meat products			17
5. Canned meats		4	47
6. Other canned foods	2	12	106
7. Fish (fresh)		2	37
8. Fruit and vegetables (fresh)		1	24
9. Other foods		4	67
Total ...	3	15	106

SHOPS ACT 1950

A number of complaints were received during the year concerning illicit Sunday trading. These were dealt with informally and have been resolved. Ambiguities of the legislation often make positive and formal action difficult.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

Number of persons holding licences :—

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order 1957 ...	6
Diseases of Animals (Licensing of Waste Foods Sterilization Plant) Order 1954	1
Number of inspections carried out: 1957 Order ...	12
Number of infringements found	-

Of the above, only three plants are in constant use and these gave no trouble during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Twenty-nine visits were paid in connection with infectious diseases mainly arising from small isolated pockets of dysentery and food poisoning, and mainly with the purpose of enquiring into hygienic practices.

DISINFESTATIONS AND DISINFECTIONS

Fourteen visits were made to verminous houses and disinfestations were carried out.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

There are no signs of any Warfarin resistant rats in this area.

The number of inspections and treatments include allotments, sewers, hedges, ditches and disused buildings and all building sites. There was very little infestation in any of these, and it was pleasing to note the co-operation given by site agents which resulted in this position.

Several wasps nests were destroyed and three complaints of moles were treated.

Two cases of fleas, eight cases of flies and six of ants were also dealt with, together with two of disinfecting after illness.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no offensive establishments within the Borough.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

1. REGISTRATIONS AND INSPECTIONS

Detailed work continued under the Act with regard to inspections and re-inspections although the former was on a much less intensified scale, due to much of this work being completed in the two previous years, 1965-1966.

With regard to the Wokingham Borough, considerable re-development has taken place within the town centre and much

Wokingham Municipal Borough

remains to be completed, and this, along with many renovations, will improve the conditions and general environment for all staff who come within the definition of the Act.

There have been a number of registrations under the Act. In the main these have been from businesses moving into the new re-developed parts of the town.

2. OPERATION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE ACT

It is hoped that progress made so far in this town will continue and further redevelopment will not be impeded by any deterioration in the national economic position. The operation and progress of the Act is an essential piece of legislation which should proceed as quickly as possible.

Very little opposition has been experienced in enforcing the provisions of the Act, as, has been found over the previous years, most employers have accepted the need for improvements to their premises, not only for the benefit and welfare of the staff but to make their businesses more efficient and therefore more competitive, and at the same time enabling them to woo new staff into their employment.

Although one hears of criticism on the enforcement of the Act by local authorities, it becomes more and more convincing that only by a local authority inspectorate, can the ultimate aim of proper enforcement be efficiently and successfully carried out. A central authority inspectorate is not, to my mind, the panacea and means of solving the problems under the Act, although considerable progress can be maintained by close liaison with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Factories on relevant matters.

3. ACCIDENTS

All accidents that were notified to this authority were investigated on the day of receipt and in all cases there was no evidence of criminal negligence, invariably the accidents were due to lack of care on the part of the employees. In following up accidents an opportunity was always taken to note any failure in safety standards on other parts of the premises, either by structural fault or inadequate guarding of machinery.

We have always found that the higher safety standards come from the multiple stores, who seem to benefit to some extent from advice from inspectors in other authorities and then successfully incorporate this advice along with their own research into safety factors throughout their nationwide businesses.

In spite of a great deal of research into lighting standards one finds this has not figured as a contributory factor towards accidents in either workrooms, offices or on passages and stairs.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

4. PROSECUTIONS

No action was deemed necessary under this heading.

In conclusion may I reiterate the need for more publicity through the press, television and radio, to impress upon the employers the need to register and re-register when premises are transferred under the Act and also to inform local authorities immediately after accidents. There must be a great deal of accidents that go unnotified, either by fear of prosecution or by sheer ignorance. If these notifications are not made, very little can be done to remedy the causes, and little is achieved by keeping statistical records.

For this area the appointed officer under section 57 of the Act changed during the year, so I would therefore like to record my thanks and appreciation to Mr. N. L. Ford for his very excellent assistance and advice that he gave to this Department during the term of his appointment.

(a) REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	8	69	26
Retail shops	6	113	6
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	—	4	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	9	—
Fuel storage depots	—	2	1
Totals	15	197	36

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises under the Act 204

Wokingham Municipal Borough

(b) ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions found							
4	Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
5	Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
6	Temperature	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
7	Ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
8	Lighting	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
9	Sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
10	Washing facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
11	Supply of drinking water	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
12	Clothing accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
13	Sitting facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
14	Seats (sedentary workers)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
15	Eating facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
16	Floors, passage and stairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
23	Prohibition of heavy work	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
24	First aid	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
—	Other matters	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total								93

(c) ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	450
Retail shops	578
Wholesale departments, warehouses	89
Catering establishments open to the public ...	97
Canteens	6
Fuel storage depots	3
Total ...	1223
Total Males ...	521
Total Females ...	702

Wokingham Municipal Borough

(d) REPORTED ACCIDENTS

Workplace	Number Reported		Total No. Investigated	Action Recommended			
	Fatal	Non Fatal		Prosecution	Formal warning	Informal advice	No action
Offices ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Retail Shops ...	-	5	5	-	-	5	
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Catering establishments open to public, canteens ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fuel storage depots ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Totals ...	-	5	5	-	-	5	

(e) ANALYSIS OF REPORTED ACCIDENTS

	Offices		Retail Shop	Wholesale warehouses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
Machinery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transport ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Falls of persons ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stepping on or striking against object or person ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Handling goods ...	-	1	-	-	-	-
Struck by falling object ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fires and explosions ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electricity ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Use of hand tools ...	-	4	-	-	-	-
Not otherwise specified ...	-	-	-	-	-	-

Wokingham Municipal Borough

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no licensed premises in the Borough.

KNACKERS' YARD

This yard has carried out its business in a proper way throughout the year and there have been no complaints regarding the activity.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

The Council owned pool operated during the summer. Sixteen samples were taken from Martin's Swimming Pool, twelve of which gave a satisfactory result.

Of the unsatisfactory samples follow up samples showed that advice and remedial action were effective and no further problems arose during the season.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The condition of the principal rivers and streams in the Borough has continued to remain satisfactory with little in the way of pollution. The Thames Conservancy do keep this matter under review also, and liaise with the Department from time to time.

PETROLEUM ACT AND REGULATIONS

Number of retail premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of other premises licensed for storage including the storage of substance containing petroleum spirit	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of tests carried out, tanks	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of tests carried out, service pipes	...	...	...	...	...	15
Number of inspections carried out	...	...	...	...	...	18

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

Few complaints arose during the year in relation to Industrial Smoke nuisances, and very little effort was needed to maintain this satisfactory position. The main problems now appear to come from domestic and garden fires and the occasional nuisance from a local scrap yard, the latter from the burning off of residual and non-useful components of old cars prior to crushing of the metal.

In all these cases time consuming efforts are made to educate offenders, but these efforts are often wasted by the lack of consideration by these people for the comfort of others.

Although preliminary proposals have been submitted to the Ministry for future Smoke Control Areas of the whole of the

Wokingham Municipal Borough

Borough, no detailed work has been possible during the year in implementing these areas under the provision of the Act.

The following table gives the details of approvals, etc. under the Act:—

1. Furnaces (Section 3):

(a)	notifications received	...	...	...	...	2
(b)	applications for prior approval	...	...	...	...	2
(c)	number of cases in which alterations were required	...	...	...	...	2
(d)	number of applications granted	...	...	...	...	2

2. Height of Chimneys:

(a)	number of plans submitted showing new chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b)	number of cases in which alterations were required	...	...	...	...	...	1
(c)	number approved	...	...	...	...	...	2

NOISE

Little in the way of industrial noise complaints was brought to the Department's notice, with one major exception; this was the noise from computers working 24 hour/day. Although during the day the noise was barely audible, it manifested itself during the night and caused discomfort to some residents nearby. As all practicable steps were being taken no formal action was deemed possible by the Department.

One of the noticeable problems was that from pneumatic drills, and although the noise level can be reduced considerably by the fitting of "mufflers," many road contractors neglect to do this until they are severely reprimanded and reminded of the possible legal implications.

The total number of complaints received during the course of the year was eleven, all of which were investigated.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

	Industrial	Commer- cial	Domestic	Total
Number of nuisances confirmed	10	1	—	11
Number of nuisances remedied informally	10	—	—	10
Number of abatement notices under Section 1	—	—	—	—
Number of nuisance orders under Section 1	—	—	—	—

Wokingham Municipal Borough

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

One large bedding manufacturer is now registered under the Act and routine six monthly samples of the following materials were taken for analysis:—

Down	Feathers and Down
Sisal	Unused Cotton Felt
Core Fibe	Feathers

All were reported satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

The number of licences issued under this Act is two for the Borough.

RENT ACT 1957

No work was done under this legislation and it would appear that this Act now serves very little purpose.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Primary inspections (houses)	...	...	...	...	48
Primary inspections (others)	...	...	...	...	31
Revisits re: above	...	...	...	...	34
Moveable dwellings (sites)	...	...	...	...	3
Infectious diseases and disinfection	...	...	...	...	29
Places of public entertainment	...	...	...	...	7
Offices	...	...	...	...	26
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	2
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	14
Swimming pools	...	...	...	...	16
Watercourses and ditches	...	...	...	...	17
Drainage (including trade effluents)	...	...	...	...	67
Sewage and drainage disposal	...	...	...	...	38
Dirty and verminous premises	...	...	...	...	14
Dirty and verminous persons	...	...	...	...	2
Insect infestations	...	...	...	...	16
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	24
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	12
Fairgrounds	...	...	...	...	2
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	8
Refuse disposal	...	...	...	...	26
Flooding	...	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	82

(b) HOUSING ACTS

Houses (primary inspections)	...	...	...	...	60
Revisits above	...	...	...	...	54
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	16

Wokingham Municipal Borough

(c)	FACTORIES ACT							
	Factories (including powered and non-powered factories)							40
	and building sites	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Outworkers premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(d)	FOOD AND DRUGS ACT							
	Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
	Fishmongers and Poulterers			...	...	...	...	7
	Greengrocers and Fruiterers			...	...	...	...	22
	Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
	Confectioners (including flour, cakes and sugar)						...	15
	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
	Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
	Cafes and Restaurants			...	...	...	...	17
	Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
	Street food vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
	Milk premises and sampling			...	...	...	...	31
	Ice cream premises and sampling	...		...	...	...	...	8
	Knackers yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Food wholesalers	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
	Food inspection—meat and other foods			...	...	...	...	42
	Bacteriological sampling of meat and other foods						...	56
(e)	SHOPS ACT (1950)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
(f)	OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963							204
(g)	RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951							3
(h)	CLEAN AIR ACT 1956		...	...	...	...	...	13
(i)	NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960			...	...	...	...	11
(j)	PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS					...	...	34
(k)	PET ANIMALS ACT 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(l)	PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949						...	777

Wokingham Municipal Borough

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	63	22	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises)	8	6	—	—
TOTAL	82	40	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp'tr (4)	By H.M. Insp'tr (5)	
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage to floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	6	—	—	—

OUTWORKERS

There are no registered outworkers in the Borough.

JOHN B. BOWDEN.

The Rural District of Wokingham

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	40,828
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book at 31st March, 1968	21,000
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1968	£3,182,683
Product of a Penny Rate	£12,975
Population (estimated) mid-year	70,700

LIVE BIRTHS:

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	707	692	1,399
Illegitimate	23	32	55
Total	730	724	1,454
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population):			
Actual			20.5
Corrected			19.0
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births			3.8

STILL BIRTHS:

	M	F	Total
Number of Still Births ...	9	6	15
Total Live and Still Births			1,469
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)			10.0

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year):

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	13	10	23
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Total	14	11	25
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 live births):			
Legitimate			16.4
Illegitimate			36.3
Combined			17.0
Neo-natal Death Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)			12.3
Early Neonatal Death Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)			11.6
Perinatal Death Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births) ...			22.0

MATERNAL DEATHS:

Number of Maternal Deaths	1
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) ...	0.7

DEATHS (All causes):

	M	F	Total
Number of Deaths ...	285	261	546
Death Rate (per 1,000 population):			
Actual			7.7
Corrected			9.7

The Rural District of Wokingham

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	1967	1966	1965
Scarlet fever	24	19	27
Whooping cough	80	15	31
Measles	1084	366	987
Acute poliomyelitis:			
(a) Paralytic	—	—	—
(b) Non-paralytic	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	1
Acute encephalitis:			
(a) Infective	—	—	—
(b) Post-infectious	1	—	—
Dysentery	75	181	20
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	2	2	2
Acute pneumonia	2	—	8
Paratyphoid fever	1	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Food poisoning	18	8	5
Erysipelas	—	2	3
Malaria	—	—	—

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—
2-4 years	1	1	—	—
5-9 „	1	—	—	—
10-14 „	—	1	—	—
15-19 „	—	—	—	—
20-24 „	1	1	—	—
25-34 „	—	4	—	—
35-44 „	—	—	—	—
45-54 „	1	1	1	—
55-64 „	3	—	—	—
65-74 „	—	—	1	1
75 and over	—	—	1	—
Total (All Ages)	7	8	3	1

The Rural District of Wokingham

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus during the year is as follows:—

DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS:

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	68
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	1,049

DIPHTHERIA/WHOOPING COUGH/TETANUS :

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	1,327
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	1,238

The number of children and adults who were vaccinated against Smallpox and immunised against Poliomyelitis is as follows:—

SMALLPOX:

Primary Vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	1,168
Re-vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	363

POLIOMYELITIS:

Primary Immunisations	...	...	...	...	...	1,879
Re-inforcing Immunisations	...	...	...	...	...	1,271

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT, 1967

The Rural District of Wokingham

32

Causes of Death	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years								75 & over
				1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	
Syphilitic disease	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	3	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	59	—	1	1	1	1	2	1	6	14	3	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Diabetes	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Vascular lesions of nervous system	67	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	42
Coronary disease, angina	105	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	2
Hypertension with heart disease	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	34
Other heart disease	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	8	17
Other circulatory disease	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5	41
Other circulatory disease	53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	4
Pneumonia	18	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	3
Bronchitis	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	47	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Motor vehicle accidents	13	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other accidents	6	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total All Causes	546	18	7	5	7	5	9	15	31	80	116	253

The Rural District of Wokingham**REPORT OF THE ENGINEER TO THE COUNCIL****SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

The Parrot Farm Pumping Station became operational in the early Summer and drainage connections were then permitted to the Swallowfield sewerage scheme.

The preparation of the Wargrave Works extension scheme was completed and tenders invited by the end of the year. It is anticipated that the sludge pressing plant which is to be provided will produce a sludge with only 65% moisture content, very suitable for conditioning arable land.

The mechanical sludge lifter has now been installed at the Arborfield Works and is working satisfactorily and effecting a reduction in the labour content of the work which is essential with the continuing difficulty over recruitment.

Additional radio/telephone facilities have been provided in static and mobile units to increase the coverage of the equipment.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

Whilst carrying out work in Kiln Ride under the Private Street Works Code, the County Council laid a surface water sewer, and the outfall to this has been enlarged by the Council where it passes through land between Kiln Ride and Sandhurst Road. A new culvert has been laid under Sandhurst Road and the existing ditch regraded to the Borough Boundary so as to form part of the ultimate surface water network of the area.

Flooding has been occurring for some time past in the rear gardens of houses in Chiltern Crescent, which back on to land which is to be developed shortly. A sewer has now been laid from its boundary, down Chiltern Crescent and connected into the new sewer laid by the Berkshire County Council during their work on the dual carriage-way construction of London Road.

D. J. RICHARDS.

The Rural District of Wokingham

REPORT OF THE PLANNING OFFICER

The number of deposited plans submitted for Town Planning and Building Regulations consideration for the year 1967 is as follows:—

Outline applications for housing development	212
Detailed plans for housing development	195
Detailed plans for alterations and additions to existing dwellings, for conversions, business premises, large garages and new accesses, etc.	431
Advertisement signs	30
Industrial buildings	14
Local Authority development	22
Schools	22
Working of minerals	3
Development by Statutory Undertakings	11
Development by Government Departments	5
Electricity line extensions	16
Plans requiring approval under Building Regulations only:	
Small additions or alterations to existing dwellings, drainage systems, small domestic garages, farm buildings	692
(1966 Total: 1,694).	<u>1,653</u>

The number of private houses completed in 1967 and under construction on the 31st December 1967, is as follows:—

Parish	Completed	Under Construction
Arborfield	—	—
Barkham	—	—
Earley	48	7
Finchampstead	10	34
Hurst	5	1
Remenham	—	1
Ruscombe	—	—
Shinfield	24	9
Sonning	4	1
Swallowfield	4	2
Twyford	21	60
Wargrave	55	52
Winnersh	12	16
Wokingham Without	65	76
Woodley	225	82
Totals	<u>473</u>	<u>341</u>
1966 Totals	<u>570</u>	<u>240</u>

G. R. TWEEN.

REPORT OF THE HOUSING MANAGER

Two developments have been completed during the year bringing the total number of properties owned by the Council up to 1,955.

The first scheme to be completed this year was at Arborfield and consisted of 10-2 bedroomed houses and 7 old people's bungalows, the bungalows being heated by a gas fired small bore water system, completely automatic and situated separate from the bungalows. This scheme has been developed on the "open plan" principle and has a very attractive appearance.

The second scheme was a three storey centrally heated building at Woodley, the ground and first floors comprising 46 bed-sit and one bedroomed flatlets for old people, with accommodation for a Warden and Deputy Warden, Common Room, etc., the second floor being completely separate from the Old People's Unit and comprising eight one bedroomed general purpose flats.

Work has commenced at King Street Lane, Winnersh on the erection of 221 units comprising 104 flats in four-storey blocks, 98 single and two-storey houses and an Old People's Unit comprising 19 bungalows. The first of the houses are due to be completed early December, but will not, in fact, be available until early in 1968.

During the year an area of 28.775 acres of land has been acquired in the Gorse Ride area of Finchampstead, and Ministry approval has been obtained for the development of an estate of approximately 400 units. The first stage of the development should commence in the Autumn of 1968 and houses should become available during 1969. This first stage is being carried out in conjunction with the Research and Development Group of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The Group acts as the Council's Architects and are paid fees at the normal R.I.B.A. scale. Their projects aim to develop new ideas under realistic conditions, to improve housing standards, and to explore ways of increasing productivity and obtaining better value for money. It is intended that the estate shall be completed over an approximate period of three years.

An analysis of the houses owned by the Rural District Council of Wokingham as at 1st December, 1967, is as follows:—

The Rural District of Wokingham

			Pre-1939	Built 1944	Com- pleted Post-War	Under construc- tion	Approved	Total
Arborfield	...	...	38	2	59	—	—	99
Barkham	...	...	8	—	14	—	—	22
Earley	...	...	4	—	47	—	—	51
Finchampstead	...	...	25	—	42	—	—	67
Hurst	...	...	22	—	26	—	—	48
Remenham	...	...	—	—	8	—	—	8
Ruscombe	...	...	31	—	77	—	—	108
Shinfield	...	...	56	—	352	—	—	408
Sonning	...	...	34	—	48	—	—	82
Swallowfield	...	...	39	2	25	—	—	66
Twyford	...	...	28	—	132	—	—	160
Wargrave	...	...	46	—	115	—	—	161
Winnersh	...	...	18	—	41	221	—	280
Wokingham	Without		15	2	73	—	403	493
Woodley	...	...	25	2	499	—	—	526
			389	8	1,558	221	403	2,579

There have been 120 tenancy changes during the year including 61 transfers and exchanges to make better use of available accommodation.

The annual review of the housing waiting list was carried out early in the year and an analysis of the figures is shown below:—

				1966	1967
Arborfield	...	...	...	39	49
Barkham	...	...	...	11	10
Earley	...	...	...	30	37
Finchampstead	...	...	...	13	23
Hurst	...	...	...	17	18
Remenham	...	...	...	5	13
Ruscombe	...	...	...	9	13
Shinfield	...	...	...	76	93
Sonning	...	...	...	17	13
Swallowfield	...	...	...	24	28
Twyford	...	...	...	62	68
Wargrave	...	...	...	31	34
Winnersh	...	...	...	50	72
Wokingham	Without		...	70	68
Woodley	...	...	...	53	73
				507	612

W. BULLOUGH.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WET SAVENGING

(a) COLLECTION

As in the previous year, the fleet of vehicles has been maintained at six, with a seventh in reserve. The following is the statistical information regarding work carried out with the vehicles, compared with the previous year:—

	1966	1967
No. of vehicle hours worked	10,995	8,325
No. of miles travelled ...	90,912	68,226
No. of gallons of fuel used ...	9,090	6,819
No. of cesspools emptied ...	11,673	8,299
Length of hose used (ft.) ...	1,147,320	881,030
Sewage disposed of (gals.) ...	16,381,235	13,495,975

The significance of the above figures is the marked reduction compared with those of the previous year. This is the first substantial reduction for several years and is due to the full effect being felt of the main drainage work in the Barkham/Finchampstead/Wokingham Without parishes.

(b) DISPOSAL

The following table shows the amount of cesspool sewage, in gallons, disposed of at the various sites, compared with the previous year:—

Site	1966	1967
Gipsy Lane	953,325	374,225
Colemans Moor	3,024,175	3,727,125
Winnersh Farm	865,450	192,000
Other sites	448,750	966,575
Into manholes at:		
Wargrave sewers ...	2,127,710	2,387,125
Winnersh sewers ...	1,503,525	—
Shinfield sewers ...	2,104,425	1,409,175
Arborfield Works ...	5,350,875	4,439,750
	<hr/> 16,378,235 <hr/>	<hr/> 13,495,975 <hr/>

The above figures relate to the quantities of sewage dealt with by the collection fleet of the Public Health Department. In addition to the above, a further 155,000 gals. were dealt with at Colemans Moor Site delivered there by the Engineer's tanker.

Due to difficulties at the Sewage Works, the cesspool disposal sites have dealt with sludge from sewage works—a reversal of the objectives in recent years. A total of 87,000 gals. of sewage ex

The Rural District of Wokingham

Wargrave Works has been dealt with at Colemans Moor and 192,000 gals. ex Marsh Farm Works were dealt with at Winnersh Farm site. In addition to this work of treatment of sludge, the wet scavenging fleet were employed during the late autumn in tankering sludge from sewage works on to adjoining farm lands, until a public outcry caused this procedure to be stopped. Included, therefore, in the total of almost 13½ million gals. shown above, are 674,000 gals. of sludge dealt with for the Engineer's Department.

CONNECTIONS TO MAIN DRAINAGE

No. of Notices indicating the availability of sewerage:—

Wokingham Without and Finchampstead parishes,	Stage II	...	262
Riseley and Swallowfield scheme	...	...	155

No. of properties connected to the public sewer:—

Arborfield parish	...	...	...	...	...	1
Barkham parish	...	...	...	...	...	37
Finchampstead parish	...	...	...	...	...	7
Shinfield parish	...	...	...	...	...	30
Sonning parish	...	...	...	...	...	1
Swallowfield parish	...	...	...	...	...	78
Wokingham Without parish	...	...	...	...	...	271
Woodley parish	...	...	...	...	...	10

This year has seen a marked step forward in the provision of main drainage in the district. Four hundred and ninety-nine properties have been dealt with, making over 1,000 in the last two years. This work has taken up much of the Inspectors' time, as not only are the connections adequately supervised, but much time is spent in dealing with sewer laterals and also work in connection with the Council's scheme for assisting with connections by means of deferred payments. During the last year 21 such cases have been dealt with.

It is, however, most satisfying work when the intractable problem of inadequate cesspool drainage can be finally and adequately solved.

DRY SCAVENGING

(a) COLLECTION

During the year a 35 cub. yd. S & D Continuous Loader was delivered. It was originally decided to replace one of the older Fore and Aft loaders, but it was necessary to retain this vehicle in service to provide an additional spare vehicle to deal with certain areas where extensive development has taken place and also to deal with large items of household refuse, and litter.

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Thus ten vehicles are now in regular service, and it has been possible to convert the last remaining two kerbside routes in the more rural parts of the area into the semi-backdoor type of collection. This scheme allows for the bins to be fetched from the rear of the properties, emptied and left at or near the front gate. To date no scheme for paper sack collections has been put in hand. The district continues to be developed, mainly by household properties, and the maintaining of regular collections under these circumstances and with high competition for labour, is difficult. The use of a bonus scheme for the operators is invaluable in such conditions.

The following is a summary of the work done by the collection fleet:—

Collection vehicles	1966	1967
Total working time (hours)	22,351	22,323
Miles travelled	100,238	106,883
Fuel used (gals.)	12,011	13,415
Oil used (pts.)	3,603	4,044
Total refuse collected (cub. yds.) ...	166,594	174,817
M.P.G.	8.47	7.80
Refuse dealt with per. gal. fuel used (cub. yds.) ...	15.41	14.50

(b) DISPOSAL

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and the use of one Bulldozer and Scraper, a Caterpillar Shovel and the part-time use of a Tractor-mounted Shovel and Backacter. Two tipping lorries enable the site to be fully controlled. This is absolutely essential as the disposal site adjoins high-class residential property and at one period in the year operations were taking place within 50 yds. of houses.

In addition to the 175,000 cub. yds. of refuse brought in for disposal by the Council's own vehicles, a considerable amount of trade refuse was also dealt with at the one tip now in operation at Tippings Lane, Woodley. Container carrying vehicles used by specialist firms catering for trade refuse collection accounted for an additional 11,000 cub. yds. of refuse and other trade refuse brought in slightly exceeded this figure. Thus an estimated total of almost 200,000 cub. yds. of refuse, (no facilities are available for weighing), has been dealt with during the year apart from soil and sub-soil brought into the site free of charge and used for covering. A sum of £1,600 was recovered for disposal charges.

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WATER SUPPLY

No. of mains water samples taken	2
Analyst's report—satisfactory	2
No. of well water samples taken	...	...	12
Analyst's report—satisfactory	...	...	2
unsatisfactory	...	...	10

Eight of the unsatisfactory well water supplies have now been dealt with either by chlorination or the installation of filters and subsequent results are satisfactory. Two unsatisfactory samples from one source remain to be dealt with.

Water is supplied to the majority of the area by the Thames Valley Water Board. In two parishes, Finchampstead and Wokingham Without, the statutory undertakers are the Mid-Wessex Water Company. Two small areas in the Rural District have no piped supply available. One area, at the junction of the River Loddon with the Thames, is used primarily for summer residence only, being subject to flood. Bacteriological samples from the wells in the gravel sub-soil of that area have always, in the past, proved satisfactory. The other area without a piped supply is the Aston Ferry area of Remenham parish, where the isolated dwellings and farmhouses obtain their water from wells into the chalk, which have similarly given satisfactory results on testing.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND FOOD HYGIENE
REGULATIONS

INSPECTIONS

Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Milk Delivery Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bakers' and Confectioners' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Canteens and Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Confectioners' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Grocers' and General Provisions Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	360
Hotels and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Stalls and Other Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fruiterers' and Greengrocers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71

The Rural District of Wokingham

UNSOUND FOOD

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year:—

4 Turkeys	4 lbs. Lard
2 Chickens	7 lbs. Golden Fillets
534 lbs. English Beef	1,679 packets of frozen foods
103 lbs. English Pork	1,392 tins of various foodstuffs
28 lbs. Pig Kidneys	4 x 12 lb. tins Cooked Ham
7 lbs. Ox Liver (frozen)	(Imported)
8 lbs. Butter	14 x 3 lb. tins Chopped Pork
4 lbs. Margarine	(Imported)
	3 x 6 lb. tins Corned Beef.

The number of complaints received regarding unsatisfactory food continued to increase and during the year under review a special warning letter was sent to all shopkeepers. This letter requested the adoption by the shopkeepers of their own systems of coding so that a proper stock rotation could be maintained and any out-of-date stock withdrawn immediately. It was felt that some success was achieved by this move.

In three instances warning letters were sent to suppliers. These included foreign matter in frozen peas, deposits in a milk bottle and a mouldy steak and kidney pie.

The standard of food hygiene and compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations was well maintained during the year, but to achieve results it is still necessary for regular inspections and spot-checks.

POULTRY INSPECTION

Only one establishment is engaged on the slaughter and dressing of poultry. These premises, at Twyford, are unusual in that birds are dressed specifically and only for the Pakistanian immigrants. Approximately 1,800 birds are killed per week, the rate of unfitness being approximately 1—2% of the total kill. The birds are skinned and wrapped in polythene in order to preserve their appearance and the general hygiene of the establishment is quite satisfactory.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

The number of persons holding licences under the above Act and Order has risen from 18 to 23.

Forty-three inspections were carried out during the year and the condition of plant and premises was reasonable having regard to the nature of the business.

Complaints received were in regard to drainage, pollution of ditches and rodent infestation.

The Rural District of Wokingham

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

Fifteen licences were issued under the above Act and 24 inspections were made. The general condition of the establishments was satisfactory and no notices were served.

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

The following shows the action taken during the year under the above programme:—

(1)	Number of properties represented as unfit for human habitation during the year	...	...	...	19
(2)	Number of houses demolished not in Clearance Areas as a result of formal procedure under Sections 16 or 17 (1) Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	3
	Number of persons displaced	...	...	...	4
	Number of families	...	...	...	2
(3)	Number of unfit houses closed under Section 16 (4), 17 (1), and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26, Housing Act 1961	...	...	...	19
	Number of persons displaced	...	...	...	47
	Number of families	...	...	...	19
(4)	Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied:				
	After informal notice by Local Authority	...	...	...	11
	After formal notice under Section 24, Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	1

HOUSING ACT 1964 (Part II)

Compulsory improvement of dwellings:

Number of representations received	Nil
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HOUSING ACT 1957

Slum Clearance return:

Total number of permanent dwellings in area	21,000
Estimated total number of permanent houses unfit for human habitation	...
	117

HOUSING INSPECTIONS:

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects:

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	46
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	70
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	36

The Rural District of Wokingham

A review of the position under the 1957 Act has been made during the year. In 1960, listed under that Act were 166 properties which were considered likely to be the subject of action under the Principal Act. By the end of 1967 another 109 properties had been added to the list. During the past seven years, 105 properties were represented and in most instances the Housing Act action has been completed. In addition to that number 53 properties have been demolished informally by the owners before statutory action has been taken. Thus a balance of 117 properties remain to be dealt with.

It is intended during the forthcoming year to have a further review to list and deal with any further sub-standard properties in the district. The position regarding housing in this area is extremely good. Almost 12,000 properties have been erected since the end of the war and over 80% of the houses in the district are less than 40 years old.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The position regarding the number of caravans in the district is substantially the same as in the last two years. One licence was issued for a site for 18 vans, an increase of 14, and full model conditions were imposed.

One prosecution was undertaken during the year, against the owner of a site of about 4 acres, let to itinerants, which resulted in the maximum fine of £100, upheld on appeal.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

No serious noise problem was reported to the Department during the year and only informal action was taken in regard to a garage workshop.

CLEAN AIR ACT

No formal action was taken under the above Act, apart from Notices received under Section 3 (1) regarding installations of furnaces to which that Section applies.

Numerous complaints were received regarding bonfires, which were dealt with informally.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50

No burials were undertaken during the year under the above Act.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses registered in the Rural District.

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BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT 1953, SECTION 129
REGISTRATION OF HAIRDRESSERS AND PREMISES

Fourteen persons and businesses were registered under the above Act and 32 inspections made. It was found necessary in some instances to make recommendations as to sterilisation and disinfection, otherwise the premises were found to be quite satisfactory.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Thirty-five dealers are registered under the above Act.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963
ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES
BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace							No. of Persons Employed
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	861
Retail Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	546
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Catering Establishments open to the Public	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
							1,648
Males							763
Females							885

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises				No. of premises registered during year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during year
Offices	...	...	...	6	59	12
Retail Shops	...	...	...	3	123	47
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	...	...	...	—	5	2
Catering Establishments open to the Public, Canteens	...	...	...	—	12	5
Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	...	—	2	1
Totals	...	...	...	9	201	67

The Rural District of Wokingham

SANITARY MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION

1. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

It will be seen from this report that considerable advances have been made in the provision of main drainage in the Rural District. Unsatisfactory drainage conditions, however, still occur in the Reading Road/New Mill area of Finchampstead parish, the built up part of Hurst parish and the unsewered areas of Wargrave parish. In two of the above areas the Council have increased the frequency of cesspool emptying in an endeavour to ameliorate the sanitary conditions, but this is a makeshift arrangement only and sewerage is urgently required.

2. NUISANCE FROM SMELLS

Although this Rural District is predominantly urban in character, a number of large chicken battery houses have been established in areas bordering the urban development. From time to time, particularly during hot weather, a nuisance arises from the disposal of manure. It is recognised that this is a national problem and research is urgently needed to ensure satisfactory disposal of large quantities of chicken manure.

It is distressing to record that in addition to the smells caused by the above, considerable nuisance occurred in the district during the autumn from liquid sludge disposed of on fields bordering urban areas. The sewage works would appear to be so overloaded as to be incapable of functioning without recourse to this unsatisfactory practice. Enlargements and improvements are at the present time being carried out at the Council's major sewage works.

PEST CONTROL

No. of complaints received:								
Rat infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	695
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Other pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
No. of properties found infested with:								
Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	918
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
Other pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	182
No. of treatments carried over from previous year								
	...	...						24
No. of properties treated for:								
Rat infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,074
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Other pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
No. of infested properties where advice has been given								
	...							58
No. of inspections for all purposes								
	...	...	...					3,235

The Rural District of Wokingham

No. of re-inspections carried out	...	...	...	...	1,109
No. of new contracts taken up		17	Value		£211
No. of existing contracts renewed		83	Value		£1,002
No. of contracts lost		11	Value		£85

The contracts lost were due to there being no further infestation.

SUMMARY OF OTHER INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	379
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	428
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	258
Drainage	...	...	...	...	2,242
Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	6
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	3
Schools	...	...	...	...	25
Licensed Houses	...	...	...	...	26
Nursing Homes	...	...	...	...	11
Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	...	...	233
Hairdressers and Barbers	...	...	...	...	46
Pig Sties and Poultry Runs	...	...	...	...	25
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	8
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	80

Nature of complaints received in connection with:

Housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Defective drainage systems and overflowing cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fumes from factory workings	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Noise from factory workings	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Unauthorised caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Accumulations of rubbish, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Flooding	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Pollution of ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Unsatisfactory water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Obnoxious smells	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Unwholesome food	27
Contraventions of Food Hygiene Regulations	6
Pests, mosquitoes, etc.	4

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ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	91	92	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	94	93	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Insp'tr	By H.M. Insp'tr	
Sanitary Conveniences : Unsuitable or Defective	4	4	—	1	—
TOTAL	4	4	—	1	—

The Rural District of Wokingham

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Out-Workers in Aug. List required by Section 133(1) (c)	No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for Failure to supply Lists	No. of Instances of work in Unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel : Making, etc.	9	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	—	—	—	—	—

D. EVANS

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